



**USAID**  
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**Advanced Science & Partnerships for Integrated Resource Development (ASPIRED) Project**

# SUCCESS STORY

## ASPIRED SEALED THE GROUNDWATER WELL IN ARARAT VALLEY



A photo collage of before and after photos and activities towards permanent sealing of the well.

**With the water discharge estimated to 60 liters per second, the closure of this artesian well will allow saving about 1,9 million cubic meters of precious groundwater resources of the Ararat Valley per year.**



ASPIRED Project COP awards certificate to VALML LLC, acknowledging their professionalism and commitment to complete this difficult assignment.

USAID-funded ASPIRED Project announced about completion of the project on sealing of a non-operational artesian well near Sipanik village, Ararat region of Armenia. The project was implemented by ASPIRED as part of the technical assistance to the Armenian government in addressing groundwater challenges in the Ararat Valley. In addition to other activities, the ASPIRED Project demonstrates the use of innovative technologies and approaches to groundwater and energy saving via pilot projects implemented in the Ararat Valley.

Sipanik community requested assistance of USAID and ASPIRED in closing this non-operational self-emitting well near their community which flooded the neighborhood, causing water-logging of the area. Moreover, proximity to the village cemetery was also dangerous as it could become a source of contamination of the groundwater aquifers and spread of diseases.

Technically it turned out to be an extremely complicated project. Upon cleaning, it became clear that the well pipe was clogged with external objects, and almost all water came out from the space between the well pipe and well casing. There could have been an unsuccessful attempt to close the well in the past which have failed due to the deficiency of the well casing. Overtime, water made its way to the surface.

The inventory of the groundwater wells, natural springs the existence of 135 non-operational groundwater wells, with the total annual discharge of . The total annual discharge from these unused wells is estimated to some 35 million cubic meters of water. While the high quality groundwater resources are simply wasted through these wells, the ecological imbalance of groundwater aquifers deepens further.

Projects on sealing or optimization of non-operated artesian wells contain enormous potential in terms of the groundwater resource conservation in the Ararat Valley. Optimization of many community wells will allow using them for irrigation needs, thus resuming cultivation of abandoned farmlands and creating opportunities for economic development of rural communities.